

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 476**

Introduced by Stuthman, 22; Sullivan, 41.

Read first time January 20, 2009

Committee: Education

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to education; to adopt the Center for Student
- 2 Leadership and Extended Learning Act.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known  
2 and may be cited as the Center for Student Leadership and Extended  
3 Learning Act.

4           Sec. 2. (1) The Legislature finds that:

5           (a) Since 1928, Nebraska students have benefited from  
6 participation in career education student organizations such as  
7 Nebraska FFA, Family Career and Community Leaders of America  
8 (FCCLA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Skills USA,  
9 Nebraska DECA, and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA);

10           (b) Research conducted in 2007 by the National Research  
11 Center for Career and Technical Education has documented a  
12 positive association between career education student organizations  
13 participation and academic motivation, academic engagement, grades,  
14 career self-efficacy, college aspirations, and employability  
15 skills;

16           (c) Long-term sustainability of the state associations  
17 of career education student organizations has a positive impact on  
18 Nebraska students and is in the best interests of the economic  
19 well-being of the state of Nebraska;

20           (d) Students in Nebraska schools should have  
21 opportunities to acquire academic, technical, and employability  
22 knowledge and skills needed to meet the demands of a global  
23 economy;

24           (e) Students benefit from the opportunities provided by  
25 career education student organizations to develop and demonstrate

1 leadership skills that prepare them for civic, economic, and  
2 entrepreneurial leadership roles;

3 (f) Students benefit from engaging in extended-learning  
4 experiences outside their normal classrooms that allow them to  
5 apply their knowledge and skill in real-world situations; and

6 (g) There is a need to establish and expand strategies  
7 and programs that enable young people to be college-ready and  
8 career-ready, build assets, and remain as productive citizens in  
9 their communities.

10 (2) The Legislature recognizes that Nebraska must  
11 provide opportunities to educate young people with leadership  
12 and employability skills to (a) meet the needs of business  
13 and industry and remain economically viable, (b) educate and  
14 nurture future entrepreneurs for successful business ventures to  
15 diversify and strengthen our economic base, (c) foster rewarding  
16 personal development experiences that involve students in their  
17 communities and encourage them to return to their community after  
18 completing postsecondary education, and (d) invest in and support  
19 the leadership development of our future state and community civic  
20 leaders.

21 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Center for Student Leadership  
22 and Extended Learning Act:

23 (1) Career and technical education means educational  
24 programs that support the development of knowledge and skill in  
25 the following areas: Agriculture, food, and natural resources;

1 architecture and construction; arts, audiovisual, technology, and  
2 communication; business management and administration; education  
3 and training; finance; government and public administration; health  
4 science; hospitality and tourism; human services; information  
5 technology; law, public safety, and security; marketing;  
6 manufacturing; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;  
7 and transportation, distribution, and logistics;

8 (2) Career education student organization means an  
9 organization for individuals enrolled in a career and technical  
10 education program that engages career and technical education  
11 activities as an integral part of the instructional program; and

12 (3) Extended learning means activities and programs that  
13 expand opportunities for students to participate in educational  
14 activities outside the normal classroom.

15 Sec. 4. The purpose of the Center for Student Leadership  
16 and Extended Learning Act is to provide state support for  
17 establishing and maintaining within the State Department of  
18 Education the Center for Student Leadership and Extended Learning.  
19 The center shall provide ongoing financial and administrative  
20 support for state leadership and administration of Nebraska  
21 career education student organizations, create and coordinate  
22 opportunities for students to participate in educational activities  
23 outside the normal classroom, and partner with state and local  
24 organizations to share research and identify best practices that  
25 can be disseminated to schools and community organizations.

1                   Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
2 appropriate not less than four hundred fifty thousand dollars each  
3 fiscal year to carry out the Center for Student Leadership and  
4 Extended Learning Act.